

## Kids Homework

Now that we are in the throes of the school year again, the kids are getting homework and are often in desperate need of organization. Following are some tips to help your kids get and stay organized in school and stay focused on their homework.

To start with, make sure students have a clean and comfortable spot in which to do their homework. That could be the kitchen table, the desk in their bedroom or the dining room table. Be aware that every child has their own idea of what works best for them and what area keeps them focused and comfortable. They may need complete silence, or maybe they do better in the midst of where all of the action is in the home. A critical objective here is identifying what area of the home work for them and then helping them set it up with school supplies so it is easy for them to concentrate on their work.

Have a few small bins or baskets or a small cabinet to store the school supplies. Kids need to have easy access to their supplies, and having an organizing unit close by will keep them focused and not cause them to look around the whole house for the supplies. The small cabinet or small baskets will help them sort out their scissors, paper clips, pens and pencils, tape, etc. Have each area labeled so they know where the items are stored so it is easy for them to find when it comes time to do their homework. Make sure there is room on their desk for them to spread out their papers and projects and if possible, have the space dedicated just for them and not shared with the whole family.

Set up a file tray for them to keep their school papers in order so nothing is lost or misplaced. Have a tray for incoming papers for the parents to sign, homework for the week, and school papers that need to be kept for the semester. Each child needs to learn how to sort through what is important and what can be thrown away at a later time. Every child has their own style and once you and your child find that out, they will be well-equipped for school and life.



Just like adults, kids have an internal time clock for when they are at their best and are focused and can concentrate on the task at hand. Some kids tend to be night owls and like to start their homework at 7:00 PM, while others will wake up early in the morning to review homework and projects before they head off to school. When the kids come home from school, they may need to have a snack and relax a bit before they start homework. If they are rushed into school work, they tend to procrastinate and waste time and are not fo-

cused. By giving them time to decompress from the school day, they can concentrate on the work and get it done in half the time.

If you or your kids need help with this process, please contact me, as I am happy to help in their development. As kids go through school, they realize what works for them and what does not, and with help from you, the parents, they will find a good system and routine that will help with school work and all aspects of life.

## From the desk of Elizabeth Fuchs



We have been having an amazing fall season so far and I always love this time of year! I hope you all had a relaxing summer. I want to thank you again for all of your business referrals I have received in the last year. I appreciate your confidence and dedication to my business and the organizing services I bring to you and your families.

I have recently refreshed my company's website and have been taking on more clients as part of my household management services. I have been working on large projects that include handling a complete household move, taking care of everyday duties and staff of a client's home, and mini-projects that come up during the year. My organizing services can range from organizing a few drawers and cabinets in a kitchen to a two-month commitment to a home remodeling project.

I wish you all the best for the remainder of 2013 and a happy and healthy 2014!

## ROOM CONVERSION

I always find it interesting when I go into a client's home and "see" things and areas differently than the homeowner, and the potential each space has. They may mention they don't have room to have family parties at their home due to lack of space in a room, or they are embarrassed to set up play dates for their kids because they feel they don't have adequate space for all the kids to play. Or homeowners cannot envision any room in the home for a home office.

For instance, why not convert your living room into a home office? I recently had a situation where I worked with a client who couldn't find a place for an office for her in her home. As an organizer I see how space can be utilized to its full potential and suggested converting the living room which was never used into a home office. Once I suggested the change, the client could see the possibilities and we did the work — and it was a life changing moment for my client!

We moved out a couch, two chairs and a table, and put in a desk, office chair, cabinets for books and office supplies and voila —, we had an instant home office! We organized and set up the space to create exactly what my client needed to start her own business, along with handling household bills, etc. In the office desk we made sure there was room for a filing system, a place for office supplies and a spacious desk surface for a laptop and file tray.



These days, many homeowners are staying in their homes longer. When they first moved in, one bedroom was the nursery, but now their child is out of college and not living at home. You have a space that can be converted into a home office, a sewing room or a room for the in-laws to stay for longer periods of time. Your home has a lot of potential and the space needs to evolve with you and your family. By changing rooms in your home into something completely different it will seem as if you moved into a new home and you will feel renewed!

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**REMEMBER:**  
*AN ORGANIZED HOME IS A PEACEFUL HOME*